



Racquets Advisory Committee FINAL Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 14, 2022

I. Call to order

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom videoconference for the scheduled 28th meeting of the Racquets Advisory Committee (“RAC”).

II. Roll call

Committee Members Present: David Acselrod, Lloyd Clareman, Patti Brill, David Kaplan, and Beth Jaykus.

Representing Westport Parks and Recreation (“WP&R”): Carmen Roda.

III. Approval of Minutes from November 8, 2021: minutes were approved.

IV. Public Comment (see also Item VII below):

Peter Krieger advises that he is President of the Westport Pickleball Association, which was created to be a liaison between the pickleball committee and the RAC. Alan Goldberg is VP.

V. Parks and Recreation Update (Carmen Roda):

- a) Tennis: Seasonal tennis reservations will be available in April. Aiming to get courts open around May 1. Plan is for three calcium chloride treatments during the course of the season.
- b) Platform Tennis: Seasonal reservations have gone out.
- c) Pickleball: Mike West (new superintendent) and Carmen looking into getting cracks repaired at Compo; they are getting information from vendors.

VI. Activities Discussion

- a) Tennis: New LED lighting is the overwhelming priority.
- b) Platform tennis: The clear priority is the construction of the two additional courts and the hut that were previously approved.
- c) Pickleball: Patti Brill discussed that there is a need for a dedicated facility for pickleball, ideally to be located near the other racket sports facilities.

VII. Discussion of Longshore Capital Improvements Plan

Jen Fava and Gary Sorge from Stantec listened in. They have not designed anything yet, they are gathering information in order to formulate plans.

David Acselrod recapped the priorities the Committee discussed at the November 2021 meeting: two platform tennis courts and hut; increase the pickleball facilities by adding facilities at Longshore; and better lighting (LED) for the tennis courts/skating rink.

The Chairman also recapped the questions that were previously circulated, including whether a tennis practice wall and/or indoor courts have support.

David Kaplan commented that he did not see indoor tennis courts or a practice wall as big priorities. Lloyd Clareman expressed the view that a practice wall should not be built within an existing court.

Patti Brill and Beth Jaykus expressed their strong wish that new pickleball courts be located at Longshore so that all racket sports are in close physical proximity.

Members of the public expressed their views, as follows:

Lisa Sandhaus (25 Greenacre Lane) comments that she has enjoyed the tennis facility. She started playing paddle and has seen a great deal of interest in a women's team from Longshore. But the fact that Longshore only has two courts is a big problem. She strongly supports two more courts and a warming hut for paddle.

Kenny Epstein (Turkey Hill Rd South) expressed support for Lisa Sandhaus' views and endorses two more paddle courts and a warming hut.

Mark Malec (17 Evergreen Avenue) also supports the expansion of paddle by two courts and a warming hut.

Peter Krieger (28 Woody Lane) spoke about the need for additional pickleball courts. It's a quickly growing sport. He advocates 8 courts. He notes that in addition to the dirt parking lot, which he thinks is an excellent location, the lower parking lot near the golf pro shop is another possible location; and there's a big wooded area between the 12th and 14th holes. But he emphasized that the best location is the dirt parking lot near the marina and that he is proposing alternatives just to create options.

Mary Ballantine, 9 Ferry Lane East; she plays paddle on Lisa Sandhaus' team. She also strongly supports two more courts and a warming hut.

Jay Walshon commented that it's important for the new pickleball courts to be near water and power.

Gary Sorge of Stantec asked about the current condition of the tennis and paddle courts. David Acselrod and Lloyd Clareman commented on the overall high quality of the courts but noted the importance of rigorous maintenance, i.e., regular watering and calcium chloride; they also commented on the tendency of the north side of courts 5-9 to flood after substantial rain. Dave Kaplan commented that the paddle courts are excellent except for the heaters which need attention.

VIII. Adjourn: Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 p.m.